

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-7, and 9-13 are currently pending and under consideration. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for participating in the recent teleconference. During the teleconference, the Examiner permitted Applicants to file a response in which Applicants solely address the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection. The Examiner further informed Applicants that he would then analyze Applicants' latest claim amendments in light of the art and act accordingly after Applicants address the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 4-7, and 9-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that assigning "oldest version information" to a newly created copy of assembly data may appear unusual, but that is what is meant by claim 8 and the specification. In the Office Action, the Examiner stated, "... seems to be updating with old information." Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not really "updating" assembly data. Rather, the claim language references assigning an old version number to a newly created copy of the assembly data. The intention of such an assignment is clearly specified in the specification. For example, at lines 13-27 of page 39, the specification reads:

[Process of Initializing At-registration Information about Copied Object]
When a copy of an object is made, the at-registration information about this object may be initialized. For example, there may be a case where an object of an assembly of a product is copied and is used to form a part of another product. In this case, the copied object has not been confirmed from a viewpoint such that the copied object forms a part of another product. However, it is possible to prevent an approval request for an assembly that has not been confirmed from being made by initializing the at-registration information about the copied object. In the initialization of the at-registration information, the oldest version of each object is set as the at-registration information.

The rejection of claims 1 and 3-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kellstrom in view of Harrison and in further view of Yotsukura will be addressed after the Examiner reviews the art and the present invention in light of Applicants explanation in response to the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection, in accordance with the Examiner's permission.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

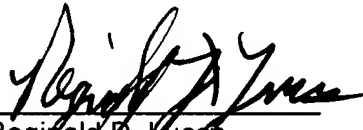
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after the response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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